Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:D:HA:SCLOWMAN APPROVED BY:D:HA:JLCARLIN AF:I:WLEWIS

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P 082124Z SEP 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: CABINDAN REFUGEE SITUATION

REF: (A) STATE 183819; (B) STATE 191199; (C) KINSHASA 8416

1. AS INDICATED REF. A. DEPARTMENT SHARES EMBASSY'S CONCERNS ABOUT THE UNHCR RELIABILITY IN ASSURING ADEQUATE DISTRIBUTION OF AID TO THE CABINDAN REFUGEES, ESPECIALLY SO LONG AS NOEL REMAINS IN CHARGE OF UNHCR PROGRAMS IN ZAIRE. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE PASSED AN ADDITIONAL 50,000 DOLLARS EACH TO IRC AND USCC FOR SUPPORT OF CABINDAN REFUGEES(REF B). CWS INFORMS US THAT THEY ALSO INTEND TO CONTINUE SUCH SUPPORT BUT WITHOUT USG ASSISTANCE. D/HA EXPECTS SHORTLY TO SEEK A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION AND THE ALLOTMENT OF ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR AFRICAN REFUGEE PROBLEMS INCLUDING FUNDS FOR SUPPORT OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CABINDAN REFUGEES. WE DO NOT EXPECT TO ALLOCATE THIS LATTER AMOUNT TO THE UNHCR UNLESS EMBASSY IS SATISFIED THAT US GOALS WILL BE MET IN SO DOING.

2. WE WILL AWAIT WITH INTEREST THE RESULTS OF FIELD TRIP DURING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10-17. WHILE ERJAVEC HAS BEEN GENERALLY RELIABLE, WE NOTE THAT HE HAS IN THE PAST SOME- TIMES BEEN TOO READY TO ACCEPT SECOND HAND REPORTS SUCH AS THOSE OF DR. BADOUX THAT UNHOR REFUGEE CENTER AT MBUKU TEMBE WAS NOT RECEIVING FOOD SUPPLIES. THUS, CONFIRMATION SHOULD BE SOUGHT FROM AIDR DEPOT LUKULA AND FROM THE REFUGEE CAMPS THEMSELVES DURING UPCOMING FIELD TRIP.

- 3. WE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT IRC WAS ALSO HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING FOOD STUFFS. REQUEST EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF AVAILABILITY ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES TRHOUGH LOCA PROCUREMENT.
- 4. HAS WOODWARD DEPARTED KINSHASA? WHAT INFORMATION DOES EMBASSY HAVE REGARDING NOEL'S PLANS?
- 5. DEPARTMENT SEES NO INDICATION REFTEL B THAT EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH NOEL. WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT CONTACT BE MAINTAINED WITH NOEL AND THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO COOPERATE WITH HIM IN ASSISTING CAMBINDAN REFUGEES. HE SHOULD BE ASSURED, FOR INSTANCE, THAT USG SUPPORT OF CABINDAN REFUGEES THROUGH VOLAGS WAS INTENDED TO BE MARGINAL AND TEMPORARY BUT THAT REFUGEES CAN HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO MOVE TO UNHCR CAMPS UNLESS THEY FIND ADEQUATE SUPPORT UPON THEIR ARRIVAL. IT REMAINS DEPARTMENT INTENTION TO SHIFT OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CABINDANS TO THE UNHCR WHEN EMBASSY JUDGES THE BURDEN OF SUPPORTING THE CABINDANS HAS SHIFTED TO AND IS BEING CONFIDENTIAL.

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MET BY THE UNHCR. BARRING SUCH EVIDENCE WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IRC AND CRS PROGRAMS.

6. FOR GENEVA: DEPARTMENT BELIEVES LITTLE FURTHER PURPOSE CAN BE SERVED BY PASSING ON TO UNHOR HEADQUARTERS IRC REPORTS ABOUT NOEL'S ACTIVITIES. WHEN EMBASSY REPORT FROM FIELD TRIP IS AVAILABLE. THIS COULD BE SHARED WITH UNHOR/GENEVA AT MISSION'S DISCRETION. VANCE

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